

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06301 011859Z
ACTION ARA-14

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USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

THE FOLLOWING SENT USINFO WASHDC SEPT 1 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO
QUOTE

1-CANAL TREATY: ALL MORNINGS SEPT. 1 FRONT PAGE STORIES ON
PLANNED SEPT. 9 RALLY WHEN GEN. TORRIJOS WILL RETURN FROM
WASHINGTON TO PRESENT SIGNED TREATY TO PRES. LAKAS. SEMI-INDEPENDENT
LA ESTRELLA AND SISTER STAR AND HERALD FRONT-PAGE, CRITICA INSIDE
PAGES WIRE SERVICE ITEMS ON PANAMANIAN EXILES OPPOSITION TO TREATY
ON HUMAN RIGHT BASIS.

2-PRO-GOP CRITICA EDIT PRASISES "TENACITY OF PRES. CARTER", WHICH
SHOULD RESULT IN TREATY RATIFICATION. EDIT SAYS CARTER HAS MADE
TREATY ISSUE "QUESTION OF PERSONAL DIGNITY" AND THAT HE "HAS BEEN
GAINING GROUND WITH UNDENIABLE AGILITY OF HIS POLITICAL STRATEGY...
JIMMY CARTER'S TENANCIOUS EXAMPLE IS ADMIRABLE. AND PANAMANIAN
SHOULD BOAST TO OURSELVES ABOUT HAVING MOBILIZED A SPIRIT WHICH
WILL NOT GIVE UP AN INCH TO ENEMIES OF THE CAUSE, OURS AND HIS,
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IF IN HIS HAND AND IN HIS
FAITH IT IS A DIFFICULT, BUT BY NO MEANS IMPOSSIBLE TRIUMPH."

3-AUG. 31 AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA EDIT SEES GEORGE MEANY SUPPORT FOR
TREATY AS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT, AND ANOTHER RESULT OF CARTER'S
EFFORTS: "PRES. CARTER'S FIGHT TO CONVINCE BOTH PUBLIC AND
LEGISLATORS AND OTHER POWERFUL GROUPS HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATING ITSELF

LITTLE BY LITTLE. WITH INTELLIGENCE, USING POWER AS WELLAS PERSONAL AND POLITICAL PRESITGE, US LEADER HAS ALREADY TAKEN FIRM STEP ON ROAD OF TRIUMPH."

4-PRO-GOP MATUTINO COLUMNIST RICARDO LINCE SEES TREATY DEBATE IN US AS "MINI-ELECTION CAMPAIG," AND FOR PRESIDENT CARTER, IT IS "TEST OF FIRE TO WHICH HE IS SUBMITTING HIS POLITICAL PRESTIGE AND HIS MORAL PERSONALITY." TREATY DEBATE ALSO IS IMPORTANT TO CARTER BECAUSE OF RELATINSHIP BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF US GOVERNMENT, CHANGED DURING NIXON PRESIDENCY: "NOW WITH CARTER IN PRESIDENCY, AND WITH CANAL TREATY AS ISSUE, BOTH POWERS ARE UNSHEATHING THEIR SWORDS TO MAKE IT CLEAR, WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE US, WHO IT IS WHO RUNS THINGS."

5-LA ESTRELLA EDIT CALLS ON PANAMANIANIS OPPOSED TO TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT TO REALIZE THAT A FAVORABLE VOTE IN TREATY PLEBESCITE IS MORE A VOTE IN FAVOR OF PANAMA THAN IN FAVOR OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT: "THE GOVERNMENT IS ONE THING, AND THE SUPREME INTERESTS OF THE NATION ARE ANOTHER VERY DISTINCT THING. AND WHILE IT IS EVIDENT THAT TREATY RATIFICATION WILL IMPLY A GREAT PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR TORRIJOS, WITH CONTINENTAL RESONANCE, AND THAT SUCH A CIRCUMSTANCE WILL CONSOLIDATE HIS POLITICAL POSITION WITH MAXIMUM FIRMNESS, THE PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING OF THE REPUBLIC SHOULD BE PLACED WELL ABOVE SECONDARY AND NIGGARDLY CONSIDERATIONS."

6-REPUBLICA COLUMNIST GRISELDA LOPEZ CALLS FOR TREATY APPROVAL
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IN PLEBESCITE, BUT "OUR AFFIRMATIVE VOTE...DOES NOT MEAN WE DO NOT QUESTION TREATY; WE ARE IN PROFOUND DISAGREEMENT WITH A SERIES OF POINTS PROPOSED IN IT. BUT LOPEZ BELIEVES POSSIBILITY OF RECUPERATING TERRITORY NOW SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN UP, EVEN THOUGH NEXT GENERATION "WILL BE MORE IMPATIENT THAN OURS; THEY WILL SOON BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE A NEW TREATY."

7-FELLOW REPUBLICA COLUMNIST MARIO AUGUSTO RODRIGUEZ CONSIDERS IDEA OF NEUTRALITY AND ASKS "WHETHER NEUTRALITY OR NEUTRALIZATION OF ENTITY SUCH AS INTEROCEANIC WAY IS POSSIBLE WITH REAL EFFECTIVENESS..SUEZ CANAL HAS NEVER BEEN NEUTRAL." RODRIGUEZ CONCLUDES THAT "NEUTRALITY NEITHER DEPENDS ON NOR IS GUARANTEED BY UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS..NOR BY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS NOR BY INTERNATIONAL ACCORDS..IT DEPENDS...ON INTERESTS AND DECISIONS OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS,AND ESPECIALLY OF GREAT POWERS. NEUTRALITY OF OUR CANAL WILL NOT EXIST AS LONG AS US HAS CHARGE OF ADMINISTRATION AND RUNNING OF CANAL..AND IT WILL NOT EXIST AFTER YEAR 2000...UNLESS WE PANAMANIANIS EFFECTIVELY GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL BE USABLE FOR ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES, IN PEACE AS IN WAR, UNDER EQUAL CONDITIONS AND WITHOUT DIFFERENCES OR DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND."

8-THIS WILLNOT BE POSSIBLE WITH "EXPEDITED PASSAGE" FOR US WARSHIPS,

AS NOW INCLUDED IN TREATY, SAYS RODRIGUEZ, "IT SEEMS TO ME VERY DIFFICULT THAT RUSSIA, CHINA AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD ADHERE TO A PROTOCOL OR ACCORD WHICH GAVE SUCH AN ADVANTAGE TO THE US." HOWEVER, INCLUSION OF SUCH A CLAUSE WAS "INEVITABLE" IN NEGOTIATIONS, RODRIGUEZ ADMITS, AND CONCLUDES THAT TREATY IS GENERALLY "FAVORABLE, ADVANTAGEOUS AND GOOD FOR OUR NATION."

9-MATUTINO EDIT CONSIDERS FEARS OF TREATY OPPONENTS THAT IT IS INEVITABLE THAT "ABANDONMENT, IRRESPONSIBILITY, UPROOTING, EVEN RAPACIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS BY SOME SECTORS WILL QUICKLY BRING TO RUIN UNDENIABLE EQUILIBRIUM AND DYNAMIC ORDER, LIKE A FINE WATCH, WITH WHICH ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION WHICH TODAY IS CALLED CANAL ZONE ARE CARRIED OUT."
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10-MATUTINO BELIEVES IT IS CERTAIN, DESPITE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF ZONE, THAT "OTHER PARTS CONSTITUTE EXAMPLES VERY WORTH IMITATING... NOT ONLY TECHNICAL...BUT RELATIVE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER, BALANCE OF LIFE IN GENERAL, CLEANLINESS, RESPECT OF NATURE, AND OTHERS..." THIS, SAYS MATUTINO, IS WHERE TREATY CRITICS SEE PROBLEM, "ALREADY IMAGINING GREEN AREAS OF ZONE TOTALLY STRIPPED OF TREES; AREAS TODAY COVERED WITH GRASS TOMORROW INVADDED BY BRIARS AND GARBAGE; FILTH UNLEASHED LIKE WAVE OVER ALL AREAS WHICH NOW ARE REST AND SOLACE FOR SIGHT, AS WELL AS AN OASIS OF CALM AND SERENITY FOR SPIRIT."

11-FOR THIS REASON, CONCLUDES MATUTINO, SOLUTION IS "TO BEGIN FROM THIS MOMENT TO EDUCATE OUR PEOPLE, AT ALL LEVELS, TO TAKE OVER WITH DIGNITY, WITH RESPECT, WITH POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE, THESE AREAS WHICH WE WANT SO MUCH TO HOLD... BECAUSE SCANT INDEED WOULD BE THE GOOD WE WOULD HAVE DONE THE FATHERLAND IF, AFTER CENTURY-LONG STRUGGLE, INSTEAD OF INCREASING IN APPEARANCE, PRODUCTIVITY AND ADMINISTRATION, WE PERMIT THIS LITTLE PIECE OF LAND, NOW RESCUED, TO SINK, DESTROYED BY ABANDONMENT, MISMANAGEMENT AND IRRESPONSIBILITY."

12-PUERTO RICO: CRITICA COLUMNIST CAMILO PEREZ, IN SECOND COLUMN ON USIA-SPONSORED TRIP TO PUERTO RICO, WRITES THAT "PUERTO RICO IS VERY SPECIAL CASE OF TOTAL DEPENDENCY OF ONE PEOPLE ON ANOTHER; OR ONE GOVERNMENT ON ANOTHER." ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY POSITIVE ASPECTS TO PUERTO RICO, WHICH HE INTENDS TO DISCUSS LATER, PEREZ SAYS, PROBLEMS SUCH AS "EPIDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT...40,000 DRUGADDICTS... CRIME...AND ECONOMIC CRISIS" EXIST. "SUCH PROBLEMS BEGIN IN POLITICAL POSITION, IN WAY OF ACTING AND REACTING IN FACE OF CONSTANT DIATRIBES WHICH GO ON OVER DECISIONS ABOUT FUTURE AS NATION: INDEPENDENT OR NOT."
ITEM UNQUOTE JORDEN
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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